



MEDIA NOTE

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Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security at Georgetown University Announces Latest U.S. Grants to Empower Women and Girls

Yangon – Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security at Georgetown University and former Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State Melanne Verveer today awarded six new Abbott Fund grants to support efforts to promote gender equality and empower women and girls across the country. In addition to meeting with grantees, Verveer participated in the December 6-7 Women's Forum for Economy and Society, sponsored by the French Embassy, and held discussions with women leaders on current challenges and opportunities for women and girls here.

The six new Abbott Fund grantees will conduct programs in support of women's role in economics, politics, and community leadership. The six grantees include:

- **Akhaya:** women's empowerment, child development, and socially conscious business programs
- **BusinessKind-Myanmar:** women garment workers empowerment project
- **Community Health and Development:** psychological support to internally displaced persons in Kachin State
- **Mon Youth Educator Organization:** girls empowerment project
- **Network Activities Group:** empowering women in the Man Ton autonomous region
- **Sun Flower Social Services:** prevention of gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS
- **Yaung Chi Thit:** enhancing women's participation in decision making and promoting women's leadership

The United States is dedicated to ensuring that women and girls are able to participate fully in the social, political, and economic life of their country. Consistent with President Obama's National Plan of Action on Women, Peace and National Security, the U.S. Embassy is committed to partnering with the government and people of this country to ensure that women's voices are prominent in the dialogue on the country's future.

The Abbott fund is supported by the United States Department of State Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues. There are currently 16 projects in-country funded by the Abbott Fund. For more information about the small grants program please visit the U.S. Embassy website at: <http://burma.usembassy.gov/>.

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